

Socialist Worker

For a Workers Republic and International Socialism

Election Result Special
F.F. HAMMERED!
LABOUR VOTE DOUBLED!

Keep Fianna Fail on the run! KEEP LABOUR OUT OF COALITION!

VOTERS gave Albert Reynolds a magnificent slap in the face this week.

With just 39 per cent of the vote, Fianna Fail got its worst result since the twenties.

And the other main right wing party--Fine Gael--saw its fortunes plummet too.

Across the country, Labour's vote mushroomed and doubled its Dail representation.

This message has been made clear: Masses of working class people are sick to death of unemployment, sacrifices and

scandals.

Anger at the sick priorities of capitalism has been translated into the re-emergence of class into Irish politics.

All socialists must enthusiastically welcome this development.

But what will Labour do with its new-found support?

Spring and Co have been careful to "rule nothing out and rule nothing in".

The worst possible outcome would be for Labour to go into Coalition with any of the right wing parties.

The crisis facing the profit system on a world scale as well as in Ireland means the next government will be attacking working class living standards. Cutting social welfare, enforcing pay restraint and slashing the health system.

Labour can either collaborate in this process or oppose it.

The last time Labour was in coalition in the eighties, Labour health minister Dr Barry Desmond spearheaded the cuts in the hospital system. The effect of this was to demoralise workers and pave the way for Fianna Fail as

Labour support corroded.

Unfortunately Labour has not clearly rejected coalition.

Ruairi Quinn suggested on Friday that Fianna Fail was closer to Labour on economic questions. This mirrored Brian Lenihan's assertions that Fianna Fail and Labour were both radical parties.

It would be a tragedy if Labour gave Fianna Fail another lease of life.

And the "Rainbow Coalition" has nothing to offer workers. Both Fine Gael and the PDs have chattered endlessly about the need to keep a grip on public spending.

With or without a "revolving Taoiseach", Labour in such a coalition would simply be giving left sounding excuses to a right-wing government's attacks.

We in the SWM call on Labour Party members, supporters and voters to pressurise Labour to stay out of Coalition. Attacks on workers must not be mounted on the basis of Labour votes.

And regardless of the Dail manoeuvres, the central task remains: To build opposition to the employers and government and to build a *real* socialist alternative.